

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A whitening agent comprising camu camu seed extract as an active component.
- 5 2. The whitening agent of claim 1, wherein said camu camu seed extract contains at least one of gallic acid and salts thereof.
- 10 3. A skin preparation for external use comprising the whitening agent of claim 1.
4. A cosmetic comprising the whitening agent of claim 1.